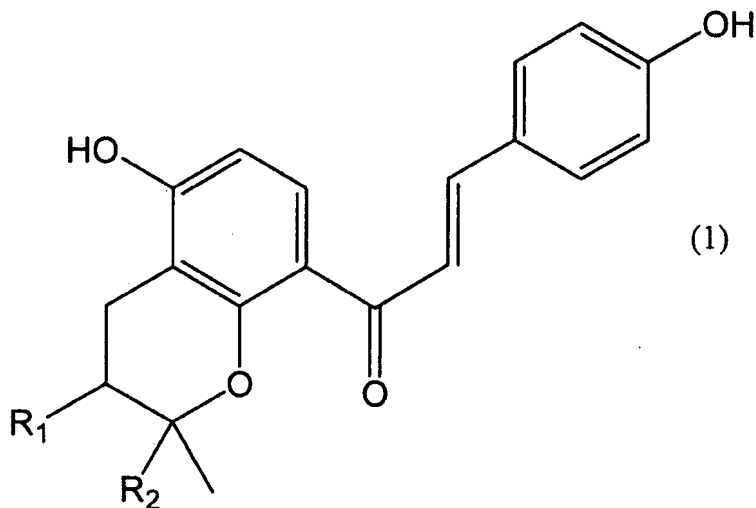


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein R₁ and R₂ are taken together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, respectively, to form a hydroxydimethyl cyclohexane ring, or where R₁ is a hydroxyl group, R₂ is an isohexenyl group,

a derivative an ester, ether or glycoside prodrug thereof, or a salt thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A therapeutic agent ~~or prophylactic agent for a disease sensitive to the compound as defined in claim 1, characterized in that~~ wherein the agent comprises the compound according to claim 1 as an effective ingredient.

3. (Currently amended) A method of protecting neurons, suppressing nitrogen monoxide (NO) production, inhibiting aldose reductase or suppressing interleukin production, wherein said method comprises:

[[The]] administering an effective amount of the therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent according to claim 2, wherein the disease sensitive to the compound is a disease requiring neuronal protection, suppression for nitrogen monoxide (NO) production, inhibition for aldose reductase or suppression for interleukin production for the treatment or prevention to a subject in need thereof.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A food, beverage or feed for treatment or prevention of a disease requiring neuronal protection, suppression for nitrogen monoxide (NO) production, inhibition for aldose reductase or suppression for interleukin production, characterized in that wherein the food, beverage or feed comprises the compound as defined in claim 1 as an effective ingredient.

6. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the therapeutic agent is administered in a food, beverage or feed to a subject in need thereof.